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Congress of the United States
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SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
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CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
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NATIONAL SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT, AND MONETARY POLICY

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

February 8, 2021

Mr. Jorge Ayala
Regional Director
U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
Austin Regional Office
903 San Jacinto Blvd #206, Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mr. Ayala:

I write on behalf of my constituents from Osage Nation regarding their competitive grant application with the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA).

It is my understanding that, if awarded, this funding will support much needed upgrades to facilities which would further enhance Osage Nation's "Skyway 36" Droneport and Technology Innovation Center. As you may know, Skyway 36 is an exciting project which seeks to develop existing facilities for a multi-purpose mission of first-responder drone pilot training, tech startup space, Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) research and development, and various other tech-related endeavors. I am told the \$2 million in funds they are requesting will provide much needed upgrades to one of their existing facilities for additional modernized square footage. Moreover, although Tribes are legally exempt from matching funds, Osage Nation has agreed to match some of EDA's funds in order to complete this project. This project would further emphasize drone and aeronautics as one of the major economic drivers for the Tulsa community, and would have a positive economic impact for both Osage Nation and surrounding communities.

As our nation continues on a path of unsustainable debt, it is more important than ever that we in Congress, and you in the Administration, work to ensure every tax dollar is spent wisely. It is with this in mind that I draw your attention to Osage Nation's application, which I believe merits your full and fair review.

Sincerely,



FRANK D. LUCAS
Member of Congress

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